Vacancies of Judges in Madhya Pradesh High Court

295. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI : SHRI CHANDAN SHARMA :

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of vacancies of Judges still existing in Madhya Pradesh High Court;

(b) by when these are likely to be filled up; and

(c) whether Government propose to appoint at least one Judge from the SC/ST community while filling up the remaining vacancies ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) There are 6 vacancies in the Madhya Pradesh High Court.

(b) and (c) The State authorities of Madhya Pradesh have been requested to send recommendations expeditiously for filling up the vacancies, and they have been requested to consider providing representation to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, women etc. It is not possible to indicate any definite date by which the vacancies will be filled up.

Issue of Bonds by Power Finance Corporation

296. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from the Power Finance Corporation (PFC) seeking permission for issue of bonds worth Rs. 750 crores during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the salient features of the proposal and whether Government are considering to allow PFC to issue the bonds;

(c) whether provision was made in the Union Budget (1989-90) for the issue of such bonds; and

(d) if no provision was made what are the reasons for such deviation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. A proposal from the Power Finance Corporation seeking permission for issue of bonds worth Rs. 650 Crores has been received which is under consideration.

Functioning of settlement Commission

297. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of cases filed with the Settlement Commission year-wise, at its four centres separately;

(b) what is the number of cases disposed of and the number of cases pending year-wise separately at the four centres:

(c) what amount has been collected by way of taxes in the cases disposed of year-wise and centre-wise;

(d) whether the taxes collected is in proportion to the normal collection made at these centres;

(e) whether it has come to the notice of Government that some centres are functioning at a disproportionately slow pace as compared to the other centres; and

(f) is so, what remedial measures are proposed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) A statement containing the information is annexed hereto. [*See* Appendix CLI, Annexure No. 12]

(c) and (d) Since the taxes, in all cases disposed of by the Settlement Commission, are collected by the respective Assessing Officers, spread over throughout the country, information about the amount of taxes collected or its proportion to other collections is not available.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Plight of Handloom Weavers

298. SHRI MOTURU HANUMANTHA RAO : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the distressing plight of the handloom weavers in the country in general and that of Andhra Pradesh in particular;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to amiliorate their conditions; and

(c) whether Government propose to review the new textile policy in view of the fact that the new policy has not helped to solve the problem of the handloom weavers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) The main problems which have been confronting the handloom weavers in the country, including Andhra Pradesh, are rise in prices of cotton yarn and the inability of the handloom sector to market its products due to competition from the powerloom sector. It has been reported that the livelihood of handloom weavers in certain areas of Andhra Pradesh had been badly effected due to reduced demand for some exportable items produced by them.

(b) (i) Various steps have been taken to ensure adequate supplies of yarn to the handloom sector in the country at reasonable price, such as the Hank Yarn Obligation Scheme, Loan Assistance to National Cooperative Development Corporation for setting up of new Weavers' Cooperative Spinning Mills and expansion of existing units and through the operations of the National Handloom Development Corporation. In addition to the above, in order to safeguard the interests of the handloom weavers, Government has suspended the exports of hank yarn of counts 60s and below and export of cotton is permitted only after taking into account the interests of the handloom sector into consideration. Yarn prices have also shown a slightly diminishing trend during the past fortnight. Further a decision has been recently taken to set up twenty yarn depots by the National Handloom Development Corporation for supply of hank yarn at competitive prices. These depots will start functioning soon in areas of Weavers' concentration and in yarn deficit States.

(ii) The following relief measures have been taken to ameliorate the conditions of the handloom weavers in Andhra Pradesh:—

(1) In order to promote the market for the items produced by the handloom weavers in the affected areas of Andhra Pradesh, cotton check shirting had been identified to have export potential and the Handicrafts and Handloom Export Corporation has placed sample orders on the weavers' agencies in the affected areas.

(2) Central Government released an amount of Rs. 60 lakhs as special advance for providing gainful employment to the unemployed weavers.